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Message Text

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73
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 INT-08

COME-00 PC-15 USIA-15 AGR-20 DODE-00 IGA-02 EB-11

TRSE-00 L-03 RSR-01 (ADP) W
---------- 118552
R 171415Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6170
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM SAHEL DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. STATE 141477; B. GENEVA 3245

1. AS REQUESTED PER REF (A), POST-DROUGHT PLANNING DISCUSSED WITH GON MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (MDC) OFFICIALS. THEY LITTLE INFORMED OF UN MEETING IN GENEVA, BUT VIEW ITS RESULTS, AS SUMMARIZED TO THEM PER REF (B), OF IMPORTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF DONOR/RECIPIENT COORDINATION.

2. IN RECENT CONTACTS WITH MINISTER MDC, QUESTION WAS RAISED AS TO ROLE FOR SAHEL INTERSTATE COMMITTEE (CILSS).
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THE MINISTER STATED THAT GON SUPPORTS ITS COORDINATING ROLE TO EX-

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TENT THAT DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM DESERVES A REGIONAL RESPONSE -- E.G., NIGER RIVER DEVELOPMENT, LIVESTOCK. PROJECTS WHICH HAVE REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING OR PLANNING. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT CONTROL OF ALL PROJECTS HOWEVER INITIATED AND AS THEY AFFECT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MUST REMAIN WITH EACH STATE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT EACH REGIONAL ORGANIZATION AND/OR COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE ITS MANDATE PRECISELY DEFINED SO AS TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY ITS ROLE AS AN INITIATOR OR SIMPLY CLEARING HOUSE.

3. ON AUGUST 9, MINISTER MDC CHAIRED BRIEFING FOR DONORS AT WHICH POST-DROUGHT PLANNING WAS DISCUSSED. GON MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING SET IN OUTLINE FORM FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS AT CILSS MEETINGS NOW BELIEVED SCHEDULED TO START AUGUST 30. HARD DATA AND FUNDING ESTIMATES STILL LACKING FOR MOST PROJECTS. SIX ADO PROJECTS DEVELOPED FOR FY 75 FBS -WITH RESPECTIVE TECHNICAL SERVICES - I.E. DESERTIFICATION, REFORESTATION, IRRIGATION, ACCELERATED FOOD PROJECTION, CATTLE VACCINATION, AND NIGER RIVER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING - ALL PERTAIN TO EITHER MEDIUM OR LONG-TERM POST-DROUGHT DEVELOPMENT. THESE PROJECTS HAVE NOW BEEN SUMMARIZED FOR MDC AS IDEAS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH AID/W. MDC PROPOSES TO FURTHER DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER PROJECT PROPOSALS WITH ADO AFTER OUAGA CILSS MEETINGS, WHEN THEY WILL HAVE CLEARER VIEW OF THEIR NEEDS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IN PROJECT DESIGN.

4. OVERALL, GON'S STRATEGY IS IN CONTEXT OF PRESIDENT DIORI'S CALL FOR NEW "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR SAHELIAN ZONE. GON REALIZES NOW IS MOST PROPITIOUS IF NOT UNIQUE MOMENT FOR SEEKING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO OVERCOME IMPEDIMENTS AND WEAKNESSES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN BURDEN ON COUNTRY, BUT WHICH EXACERBATED BY DROUGHT SITUATION. HIGHLIGHTS OF GON PLAN FOR MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM, AS OUTLINED IN AUGUST 9 MDC BRIEFING, DESCRIBED BELOW. DETAILS BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM.

5. GON TENTATIVE PLAN FOR POST-DROUGHT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY):

A. RURAL ECONOMY

1. MEASURES AGAINST DESERT ENCROACHMENT SUCH AS REFOR-
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ESTATION, CREATION OF VILLAGE WOODS THROUGH COLLECTIVE WORK, LEADING TO LONG-RANGE CREATION OF "GREEN BELT" TO WARD OFF DESERT.

2. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: USE SURFACE WATERS NIGER RIVER, LAKE CHAD, KOMADOUGOU FOR IRRIGATION INCLUDING HYDRO-AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RICE, ANIMAL FEED PRODUCTION, DAM CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT MARSH-

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LANDS AND STREAMS.

3. FOOD PRODUCTION: CONCENTRATE RESEARCH VERIETIES AND SOILS TO BETTER CEREALS PRODUCTION, EXPLOITATION OF VEGETABLES, FRUITS IN FLOODLANDS; RECONSTITUTE PALM GROVES AGADEZ.

4. LIVESTOCK: RECONSTITUTE HERDS IN BREEDING STATIONS AND IN NUMBERS PROPORTIONAL TO PASTURE, IMPROVEMENT OF PASTURELANDS, INTENSIVE ANIMAL PRODUCTION (FATTENING STATIONS, ANIMAL HEALTH, FEED PRODUCTION).

B. INFRASTRUCTURE

1. CONSTRUCT ROADS AGADEZ - ZINDER, AGADEZ - TAHOUA, SMALL FEEDER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES, INTER-REGIONAL RAILROAD.

6. GON PLANS TO REALIZE ABOVE PROJECT THROUGH LABOR INTENSIVE MEANS USING, FOR EXAMPLE, NOMADS WITHOUT HERDS FOR REFORESTATION, ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. PLAN MENTIONS USE FOOD-FOR-WORK PRINCIPLE AND BUDGETARY SUPPORT.

7. PLAN FURTHER CITES NEED TO REFORM HEAVY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE TO ADAPT TO DEVELOPMENT NEEDS BY DECENTRALIZING OPERATIONS AND CREATING SECTORAL OR INTEGRATED UNITS WHICH HAVE RESPONSIBILITY ON REGIONAL OR SUBREGIONAL LEVELS OF COUNTRY.

8. PLAN STRESSES THAT FOREIGN AID HAVE GREATEST FLEXIBILITY UNIFY ITS ACTIONS, ORIENTING AID TO NEEDS OF RECIPIENT.
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